

Boise/Treasure Valley Crusade
Boise, Idaho
Friday, August 13, 1982 (Military Night)

THE NEW BIRTH

Text: John 3:1-15

ILL: This is a night for the military
here in Boise, Idaho

- Perhaps the most prominent military
man we've had here in the United
States was 5-Star General, and then
President: Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Before his death, he calculated
that unless we have a moral and
spiritual REBIRTH throughout the
world
- one of these days we're going
to wake up in the dust of a
thermo-nuclear explosion.

new birth....2

— So let's turn to John 3:

Ill-Eisenhower

ILL: Catholic in Army

— Number 41

— "Are you weary and heavy laden?"

ILL: Religion

— "You didn't get it here"

INTRODUCTION:

-- Nicodemus

-- great religious leader

birth...3

- came by night
- probably afraid of criticism
- or had desire for private
conversation
- or more thought before committing
himself

ILL: Priest in Chicago from Poland

- Many of you have thought a long
time about religion and Christianity.
- Living in a revolutionary and
changing world

birth....4

- Man's moral ability lagging behind his technological ability
- Could mean disaster and catastrophe for the human race
- Many world leaders predicting another world war in this decade

ILL: Ann Landers

- on Tuesday this week in the IDAHO STATESMAN

- quoted Dr. Jules Masserman

-- (Honorary Life President of the World Association For Social Psychiatry)

birth....5

- stated in the International Congress of that body of psychiatrists, that:
- "Acknowledged experts in international and military affairs agreed that, unless present trends are reversed, chances are 4 in 5 that a nuclear war will destroy civilization in the next decade."

When Does War Come from? Jan 4'

- Greatest need in the world is a transformation of human nature.

birth....6

ILL: General Omar Bradley

- as he participated in President Reagan's Inauguration
- Asked if he thought man would emerge alive from the twentieth century
- he expressed grave doubts,
 - "Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.
/ We know more about war than we know about peace, / more about killing than we know about living. / We have grasped the mystery of the atom, / and rejected the Sermon on the Mount."
(Quote, Nov. 1981)

Ned To Be Born Again birth....7

ILL: Ned

- ~~—~~ natural birth
- ~~—~~ conception
- ~~—~~ gestation
- ~~—~~ birth

ILL: Ten-year-old boy

- ~~—~~ writing on "birth"
- ~~—~~ "Stork brought him."

~~—~~ Nicodemus must have been stunned.

~~—~~ If Christ had said this to:

~~—~~ Zacchaeus, a tax collector;

~~—~~ woman at the well; — *5 Husband - not living*
~~with a man~~
 with a man - not her husband

birth...8

- the thief on the cross;
- the woman taken in adultery;
- but to a religious leader!

- Nicodemus was a ruler
- rich
- religious
- and yet "searching for reality"

- He fasted two days a week.
- Spent two hours daily in prayer.
- Tithed all his income.

birth...9

— Was a professor of theology.

— Worked hard at religion.

— Jesus said:

— "It isn't enough: ye must be
born again."

I. WHY DID JESUS SAY THIS?

— Because He knew what was in man.

ILL: Little boy, after being corrected
by teacher several times

— "I guess I was just born wrong."

birth...10

- What causes lying, cheating, hate,
prejudice, social inequality, war?

- Jesus said,

-- "But those things which proceed
out of the mouth come forth from
the heart: and they defile the man"
(Matthew 15:18)

ILL: Raw recruit in the army

- had been to chapel
- and in his whole life he'd never
heard a preacher lay down the law
- the Ten Commandments
- all TEN of them
- like the Chaplain did that
morning!

birth...ll

- ~~— he was still quaking as he shook hands with the stern-faced Chaplain at the door~~
- ~~— who looked at him and solemnly asked:
— "Private, have you kept all ten of the Commandments?"~~
- ~~— The Private blushed, gulped, and replied:
— "Well, I've never made no graven images!"~~
- Psychologists realize that there is something wrong with the human race.

birth...12

- There are many words used in the New Testament to describe sin.
- Three words used in the Bible which we will use as illustrations:

① TRANSGRESSION

- 1 John 3:4 "Sin is a transgression of the law."

*More
Conscience*

*Sin's Conscience - (Heart - Soul - Strength - Mind -
Neighbor or thy self)*

② MISSING THE MARK

- A coming short of your duty and a failure to do what you ought to do.

birth...13

- 1 John 5:17 "All unrighteousness (anything imperfect) is sin."

ILL: Buying ~~a~~ diamond. - Lane 2

3. INIQUITY

- A turning aside from the straight path.
- Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way."

ILL: Sheep and goats.

birth...14

I was told that
ILL: ~~Here~~ in Idaho is the sheep state
in the United States

— I haven't seen any goats around
that I can recollect!

— In New Zealand they cross sheep
and goats and call them GEEPS

— Some of you hardly know whether you're
a sheep or a goat.

— One thing you're not, spiritually
— you're not a GEEP.

Romans 5:12 "Wherefore as by one man
sin entered into the world, and death
by sin; and so death passed upon all
men, for that all have sinned."

Thus a radical change is needed by
every man

1. To find complete fulfilment in
this life

2. To be acceptable with God.

II. WHAT IS THE NEW BIRTH?

— Nicodemus raised this question:

— "How can a man be born when
he is old?"

— He wanted to understand.

ILL: Black cow

— green grass

— white milk

— and yellow butter

ILL: Understanding color television

birth...17

ILL: My surgery at Mayo Clinic

ILL: How to go about proving a mother's
love in a laboratory

- Nicodemus could see only the
physical and the materialistic

- and Jesus was speaking of the
spiritual

- When Jesus said:

- "You Must Be Born Again"

- He did NOT mean:

birth...18

① Inheritance:

- John 1:12 "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, But of God."

ILL: Born in a garage.

② By Works:

- Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

birth...19

3. Reformation:

~~—~~ Isaiah 64:6 "All our righteousnesses
are as filthy rags" in the sight of
God.

ILL: Pig and the sheep.

4. Imitation:

ILL: "My Fair Lady"

~~—~~ "I could have danced all night"

~~—~~ "On the street where she lives"

TO BE BORN AGAIN MEANS:

- Ezekiel 36:26 - "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you."
- In Romans, Paul speaks of it as "being alive from the dead."
- In II Corinthians, He calls it
 - "being a new creature"
 - "old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new."
- In Peter, it says: "Being partakers of the divine nature."

birth...21

- John calls it "passing from death unto life."
- The NEW BIRTH brings about a change in whole philosophy and manner of living.

III. HOW IS IT ACCOMPLISHED?

- A mystery.
- "The wind bloweth where it listeth."

- I said in beginning:

ILL: Analogy to natural birth

- conception

- gestation

- birth

① Reception to the Word of God

- conception

- 1 Peter 1:23 "Being born again, not
of corruptible seed, but of
incorruptible by the Word of God,
which liveth and abideth forever."

- Romans 10:17 "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."
- 1 Corinthians 1:21 "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching (or declaration, or proclamation) to save them that believe."

② The Work of the Holy Spirit

- gestation

- He convicts

- John 16:8 "And when he is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

- (3) Then He indwells
- Birth

Changed
Will
Effectors
Objectors For Living
Disposition
New Purpose

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

Telephone

ILL: Naaman at the River Jordan

-- looked ridiculous.

birth...25

ILL: Serpent of brass

- an insult to your intelligence
- no healing quality in brass
- but God said it.

- They did not rub medicine on their sores
- They did not fight the serpents
- They did not look to Moses
 - They just had to look to the serpent in faith
 - and beyond the serpent to God.

birth...26

SO JESUS SAID:

- "I am going to be lifted up.
Look unto me and be ye saved."

ILL: Burt Frizen and I were students

at Wheaton College together

- when World War II broke out

- Burt was ^{inducted} ~~inducted~~ into the
American Army

- and ended up in a wintry France
in the Battle of the Bulge

- It was 1944, and Burt was lying
- dying in the snow, unconscious

birth...27

- A Nazi soldier spotted him and came up to him with a drawn bayonet to finish him off.
- Just then, Burt regained consciousness enough to sing softly:
 - "There is a name to me most dear:
/ Like sweetest music to my ear
For when my heart is troubled,
Filled with fear
Jesus whispers peace."
- The German soldier, holding his bayonet aloft, stood transfixed
 - and awestruck exclaimed in the German that Burt could understand:
 - "Sing it; sing it again!"

birth...28

~~—~~ So, softly, amidst the gory blood,
~~—~~ bullets and bombs punctuating the silence

~~—~~ Burt sang on:

~~—~~ "Oh that the world might hear

Him speak:

~~/~~ The words of comfort that men seek:

~~/~~ To all the lowly and unto the meek;

Jesus whispers peace"

~~—~~ At that point, Burt lapsed into
unconsciousness.

~~—~~ When later he came to

~~—~~ he had been placed on the road

~~—~~ where the Allied Medics picked
him up.

birth...29

- ~~—~~ Moses commanded ^{Ancient} Israel at the Red Sea
 - ~~—~~ with the Egyptians behind them
 - ~~—~~ to "Go Forward!"

- ~~—~~ In the Army
 - ~~—~~ when the Drill Sergeant barks:
 - ~~—~~ "Attention; Forward March!"
 - ~~—~~ that's what you do
 - ~~—~~ or you'd better do!

- ~~—~~ Here at the Crusade
 - ~~—~~ we ask those who hear Christ's call to come forward.

birth...30

ILL: There was an ad for ROWING in
the papers the other day

-- a part of which says:

-- To Row

-- you "SIT DOWN AND GO BACKWARD

-- To come to Christ

-- you do the opposite.

-- You stand up, and come forward.

Page 30 was
missing from
notebook -- assume
it was pulled & not
used when preached
-- copied from carbon 9/14

BG/sw
8/13/82